



**HIPPODROME
THEATRE** *at the*
FRANCE-MERRICK
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

February 14, 2022

Honorable Chairwoman Atterbeary
Chair, House Means and Ways Committee

Re: House Bill 641-2022 (Income Tax -Theatrical Production Tax Credit)

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

I am writing to express my full support of the Theatrical Production Tax Credit, Senate Bill 171-2021. As the home state to two of the top producers of touring Broadway productions - Networks Entertainment in Columbia Maryland and Troika Entertainment in Gaithersburg Maryland – Maryland should be the launching pad for every national Broadway tour that is produced by these two companies.

Launching a national Broadway tour is a herculean task that requires weeks of work by hundreds of talented people. Each show must be built by teams of talented carpenters and artists, transported to the theatre by drivers, assembled on the stage by dozens of stagehands and wardrobe and wig technicians, technically rehearsed by engineers, and then finally put in front of a live audience. This all translates to hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in paid wages; wages which pay mortgages and grocery bills. Those extra weeks of performances, that would otherwise not have taken place, also bring the benefits of major economic impact. A four week run of a Broadway show in Maryland equates to nearly \$20 million in economic impact. For each ticket purchased, there is an additional impact of parking, dinner, and hotels. Additionally, if a newly launched national Broadway tour is spending 4 – 8 weeks in Maryland to launch, that equates to even more hotel rooms and dinners by the visiting actors, directors, and artists.

Right now states like Rhode Island and New York have the competitive advantage because they offer similar tax incentives. However, if Senate Bill 171 is passed, Networks, Troika, and other producers will be incentivized to launch their shows here on their home turf and all that economic impact will stay home, in Maryland. This bill could make the State of Maryland the true Home of touring Broadway in the United States, something for the citizens of Maryland to be extremely proud of.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will support this important piece of legislation. After a very difficult two years for the live entertainment industry with virtually no revenue, wages paid, or financial impact for the state from this major sector of the economy, we need this bill now more than ever so we can put our artists, stagehands, and technicians back to work and keep those wages here in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mahan
Vice President
Hippodrome Theatre